

Kerala Mathematics

History and Its
Possible Transmission to Europe



Edited by
George Gheverghese Joseph
University of Manchester, U.K.

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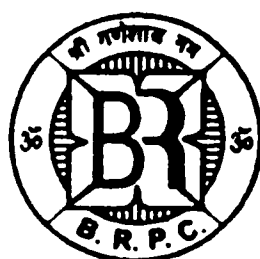
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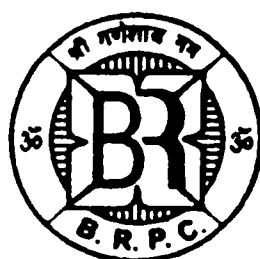
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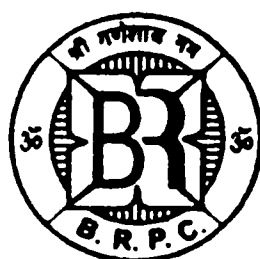
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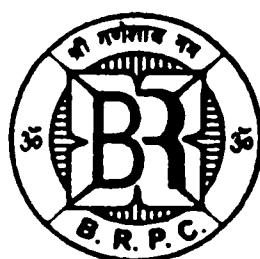
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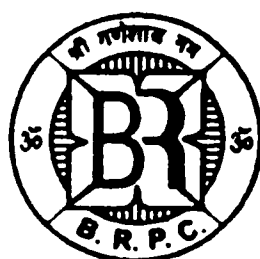
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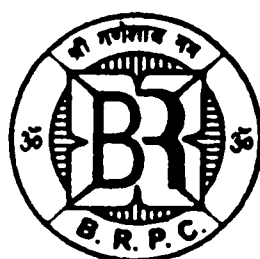
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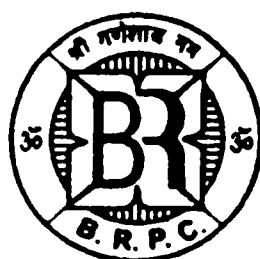
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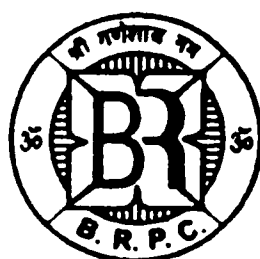
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“One of the conjectures posed in Chapter 9 is the possibility that mathematics from medieval India, particularly from the southern state of Kerala may have had an impact on European mathematics of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.”

I then went on to add that this conjecture remained to be investigated further.

This one-sentence conjecture aroused considerable interest and controversy. I was asked at a meeting soon after the publication of the book whether I was in the business of dethroning Newton and Leibniz! It was also taken up by some who quoted me as suggesting that the Indians invented calculus!

But many asked a more reasonable question: Who were the agents/ or conduits who took Indian knowledge to Europe. Not the Arabs, surely, since the period in question was later than the generally recognised period when there was transmission of mathematical and astronomical ideas from India to the Arab world. Neither could the transmission have had any significant impact on European mathematics after the middle of the seventeenth century since a proto-calculus had already developed in Europe.

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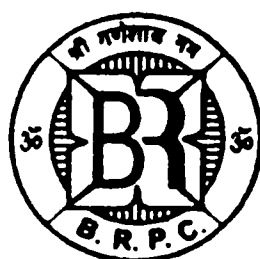
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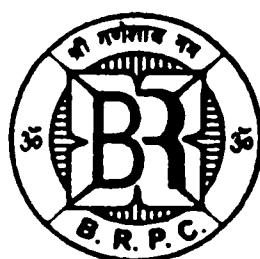
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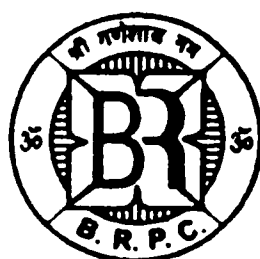
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